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WRTG 1320 / CRN 11237

November 13, 2012

Do Children Need both Monetary and Emotional Child Support?

Due to the growing changing American family there are more single parent households than there were in the 1950’s, when the traditional nuclear family was popular. The nuclear family generally consisted of one mother, who did not work. Instead of working, the mother would stay home to bake, clean, and take care of her children. Parents of a nuclear family were not expected to have a certain amount of children however; one is never described with fewer than two. The father of the nuclear family is expected to work. The working father holds the responsibility to support the family. As mentioned the traditional American family has changed. However, the traditional American family still exists, it is just not as prominent as in the past. There are many different types of families. Families with only one parent, families with two parents of the same sex, or blended families, with children from outside of their current union. In one type of family dynamic there is only one parent in the household with the children because of separation. The parent who does not live with the child is often asked to help with monetary support of the child. However, monetary support does not fully help raise the child. The child needs both monetary support and emotional support from both parents.

In supporting my belief that children need both emotional and monetary support, I intend to explore ideas surrounding the emotional stability of children who receive only monetary support from the parent they do not live with. By looking into statistics, research articles that have been peer reviewed, and by taking a look into personal stories of single parent homes where children only received monetary child support.

I want to bring awareness to the fact that children cannot be emotionally successful with support from only one parent. If children are apart of a single parent household and the parent they do not live with is ordered to pay monetary child support, I believe those children are also entitled to receive emotional child support. I feel that emotional child support is of more importance than money. Money cannot buy a child closure, guidance, or love. The love felt from money to buy things that the child may need will only be temporary. The love felt from a parent spending time with their children and helping them grows lasts longer than a pair of shoes or school supplies. Not to say that shoes or school supplies are not important, it is to say that they are just as important as the emotional stability children will carry with them into adulthood when they receive emotional support.

Readers should be interested in the idea that children of single parent families need emotional support along with monetary support. When child support is granted by the court system, there is never talk of emotional support. It seems as if the popular belief that money will fix all problem is praised. However, money can only solve a few problems. Children growing up in single parent family homes did not ask to be there. Whether or not the parent’s of the children planned on being single parents or not, children deserve, adequate support. Support includes spending time and raising the child, all which can be done even if the child does not live with one of their parents. They simply has to be a need for single parents not living with their children to step up and give more than monetary support. It will make a difference in the relationship and perception of the parent outside the home and the child.